

PRESS NOTICE

REGINALD I. LLOYD UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000*

December 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN F. MCDONALD

(803) 929-3000

SENTENCING

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney REGINALD I. LLOYD stated today that JOHN NEYLE BENNETT, JR., age 34, of Lexington, South Carolina, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of thirty years. Bennett had previously plead guilty to conspiring with others to distribute methamphetamine and to possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie sentenced Bennett after hearing evidence that Lexington County Sheriff's Department investigators executed a search warrant at Bennett's home. During the search officers observed Bennett drive up to the house in his vehicle. After a brief high speed chase Bennett was apprehended.

A search of Bennett's home and car revealed over 50 grams of

methamphetamine and several firearms. Law enforcement also recovered a ledger notebook where Bennett detailed his drug dealing business including the names of those whom he supplied and the amounts they purchased.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lexington County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Todd Hagins of the Columbia office handled the case.

#####